

SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM VITAE (CONTINUED) OF JOSEF HOFFMANN

Hoffmann was born 10 October 1911 at Osnabrueck, Westphalia. After working as Amtsleiter for press and propaganda in the Reichsfuehrung Jugendenschaft, he spent a year (1937) in Rumania as an exchange student, then went into business, using his Rumanian connections he claims to have lost an early enthusiasm for National Socialism long before the war, but was called up to the SS war Correspondents' Division (later Division Kurt EGGER), and served in the East.

He gives a somewhat rhetorical account of his combat against nazism, as a student and later as a resident of Rumania. He states that from 1.39 on, he was working with the resistance group of Dr. WILHELM KUBITZ. In 1939, when HOFFMANN was working in the Propaganda Ministry, he met a former fellow-student at Marburg, Fritz POHLE, who was with Amt III, and head of AB-Abschnitt Wien, who recruited HOFFMANN personally to Dr. KUBITZ of Amt III; this saved HOFFMANN's life, because KUBITZ stopped an investigation that had been started against HOFFMANN by his boss in the Propaganda Ministry. "Through KUBITZ I now succeeded, always carefully and successfully avoiding an obligation to collaborate, in getting an insight into the work of Amt III and into the structure of its organization....which was essential, in view of my later work with the resistance group of Dr. KUBITZ."

In 1940 HOFFMANN was taken over by the Auswaertiges Amt, and assigned in March 1941, as adviser on propaganda, to Prof. Ionel ATONESCU, later Propaganda and Foreign Minister and vice-Premier of Rumania. ATONESCU wanted peace with the Western Powers.

In 1942 HOFFMANN met Dr. JOSEF KUBITZ again; KUBITZ tried to prevent HOFFMANN's coming-up to the Army, but the inexperience of KUBITZ, of Amt VI, who had tried to "buy" HOFFMANN in Rumania, failed, told them. HOFFMANN now planned to get to the Balkans, after as short a stay as possible with the troops, and to become there the point of support of the resistance group, "observing all that happened in the legations, the SD, and the racial groups, and maintaining a courier system". He made two illegal trips for KUBITZ and the latter's chief, Dr. JAHNKE (of Bureau Wien) to Rumania and Slovakia in March 1942; after serving in Russia, he was ordered in 1943 to set up a courier office, "Wien Ungarn", for the Kurt EGGER division, which was eventually to develop into the propaganda section of the SS's office. HOFFMANN devoted most of his time to activities (not described) for Dr. KUBITZ and to business operations for a business friend of his from Bucharest, Dr. KROHN.

In the spring of 1945 HOFFMANN went to Slovakia; he kept hidden in Austria till his arrest 9 July 1945 in Traunkirchen; later he was sent as a POW to Ebensee and still later to Brunnhausen b. Hannu, from which he was released, thanks to papers procured by "comrades".

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